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Patent
Serial No. 10/527,107
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 2, line 14, with the following amended paragraph:

As we will see in detail further on, such a method has the advantage to provide a reliability information (or soft-output) on the decoded sequences, allowing to select paths in a tree in an increasing order of their metric value. Thus, by searching for only useful codewords, the proposed method is very efficient in term of CPU cost, complexity and time, as many other paths in the decoding tree are not considered anymore. The soft-output information allows then to perform iterative joint decoding when the VLC encoder has been concatenated with another.

Patent
Serial No. 10/527,107
Amendment in Reply to Office Action of April 20, 2006

Please replace the paragraph beginning on Page 10, line 11, with the following amended paragraph:

Step 118: selection of the new top path i.e., the path having the smallest cumulative metric.

(We assume that the smallest cumulative metric is M11 + M20).

Cumulative metric	Nodes (paths)	PTH	Nb of bits	Nb of symbols
M11 + M20	N00-N11-N10	PTH20	2	1
	N00-N11-N20			
M10	N00-N10	PTH10	1	1
M11 - M21 + M'10	N00-N11-N21-	PTH34	3	2
	N34			
M11 + M21 + M'11	N00-N11-N21-	PTH35	3	1
	N35			

The steps as above disclosed are repeated until the stop conditions are verified at step 121.